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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/51/L.5/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1)]

51/4. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/5 of 21 October 1994 relating to the promotion of cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States, 1/

Recalling that the purposes of the United Nations are, inter alia, to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends,

Bearing in mind that the Charter of the United Nations provides for the existence of regional arrangements and agencies for dealing with such matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security as are appropriate for regional action, and whose activities are consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Recalling that the Charter of the Organization of American States reaffirms these purposes and principles and provides that that organization is a regional agency under the terms of the Charter of the United Nations,

1/ A/51/297 and Add.1.

Noting with satisfaction that the third general meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and of the Organization of American States was held at United Nations Headquarters on 17 and 18 April 1995,

Welcoming the fact that the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States attended the special commemorative meeting of the United Nations on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary,

Expressing its satisfaction at the way in which the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs and the Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of American States have been performing their work of coordination between the two bodies,

Recalling its resolutions 47/20 A, 47/20 B, 48/27 B, 49/27 B, 49/5 and 50/86 B of 24 November 1992, 20 April 1993, 8 July 1994, 12 July 1995, 21 October 1994 and 3 April 1996, respectively,

Aware that the effective consolidation of a new international order requires regional action in harmony with that of the United Nations,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his initiative in convening a meeting between the United Nations and the heads of regional organizations on 15 and 16 February 1996, welcomes the participation of the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States in that meeting, and recommends that similar meetings be held more frequently;

2. Expresses its satisfaction at the close cooperation between the two organizations and, in particular, the support which they both gave to the conduct of the parliamentary municipal and presidential elections in Haiti from June to December 1995, and at the joint operations of the International Civilian Mission to Haiti;

3. Also expresses its satisfaction at the support given by the Electoral Observer Mission in the general elections in Nicaragua held on 20 October 1996, when the United Nations system also provided technical assistance;

4. Further expresses its satisfaction at the close cooperation between the two organizations in the observation and verification of the electoral process, and recognizes the effectiveness of that cooperation when it is requested by national authorities;

5. Welcomes the meetings between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, as well as the regular meetings between their representatives throughout the period under review;

6. Also welcomes the signature on 17 April 1995 of the Collaboration Agreement between the United Nations and the Organization of American States;

7. Emphasizes that the cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States should be in accordance with their respective mandates, scope and composition and should take place in forms that are suited to each specific situation, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

8. Recommends that general meetings between representatives of the United Nations system and the Organization of American States be held when deemed necessary to continue to review and appraise progress, and that sectoral and focal point meetings be held on areas of priority or mutually agreed issues, continuing with the modality of operating through the focal points already established;

9. Expresses its appreciation for the efforts of the Secretary-General in the promotion of cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States and expresses the hope that he will continue to strengthen the mechanism for cooperation between the two organizations;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

11. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States".

40th plenary meeting
24 October 1996